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**Chemotaxis of sperms of Equisetum.**—LIDFORSS,<sup>36</sup> to avoid anticipation by SHIBATA, has made a preliminary announcement of his discovery that the spermatozoids of Equisetum are markedly chemotactic toward solutions of malic acid especially, and also to maleic acid and its salts. Only indifference is shown to solutions of fumaric acid or of its salts. The threshold concentration of malic acid he finds to be about M/10000. Aerotaxis, which had been previously observed in the case of Marchantia spermatozoids, could not be demonstrated.—RAYMOND H. POND.

**Welwitschia.**—*Tumboa mirabilis* is so little known that any fresh observations are welcome. PEARSON<sup>37</sup> succeeded in securing material showing the development of microsporangia, microspores, megasporangia and megaspores. Observations were made upon the habit, habitat, and climatic conditions. It is probable that the plant is partially, if not wholly, insect-pollinated, and that the processes of fertilization and maturation of the seed take place more rapidly than in other gymnosperms.—CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN.

**The cycadean integument.**—This is discussed in a recent paper by Miss STOPES,<sup>38</sup> who takes this occasion to compare the structures of the cycad ovule with those of the fossil Lagenostoma. The single integument of the living cycads is regarded as a double structure representing two integuments of some ancestral form. The plane of fusion of the two integuments has been between the inner and outer layers of the stony coat, or between the stone and the outer flesh.—CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN.

**A rust-resistant cantaloup.**—BLINN<sup>39</sup> finds that the Pollock strain of cantaloups is resistant to the rust or blight which is a common and serious disease in the Rocky Ford district of Colorado. This resistance he found was transmitted through seed selected from resistant plants, and hence seed selection becomes a very practical method of controlling this destructive disease wherever it may occur. The disease is due to the fungus *Macrosporium cucumerinum* E. & E.—E. MEAD WILCOX.

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<sup>36</sup>LIDFORSS, B., Ueber die Chemotaxis der Equisetum-Spermatozoiden. Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesells. 23:314-316. 1905.

<sup>37</sup>PEARSON, H. H. W., Some observations on *Welwitschia mirabilis* Hooker. Abstract of a communication to the Royal Society of London, Nov. 23. 1905.

<sup>38</sup>STOPES, MARIE C., On the double nature of the cycadean integument. Annals of Botany 19:561-566. 1905.

<sup>39</sup>BLINN, P. K., A rust-resistant cantaloup. Bull. Col. Agric. Exp. Stat. 104: 1-15. pls. 1-10. 1905.